

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from the Koenigsbrueck Area

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 29 September 1953

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

1. At about 5 p.m. on 28 August, 8 to 10 T-34 tanks [redacted] were loaded at the Koenigsbrueck-Ost railroad station for shipment toward Dresden. A unit entrained at the Koenigsbrueck-West railroad station between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. on 29 August included 16 x 15.2-mm field howitzers, of which 8 came from Gruenmetzmuhle (mill) and 8 from the camp near Schmorkau, 15 prime movers, 36 trucks, 3 large jeeps, 2 radio trucks, 8 ambulances, 1 sedan and 240 to 280 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulettes with artillery insignia.¹
2. On 26 August, the Alte Lager Koenigsbrueck was occupied only by a guard unit. The Alte Lager served as storage depot for fuel and ammunition.²
3. On 26 August, the Nachrichten Schule at Koenigsbrueck was occupied by about 200 troops who wore black-bordered black epaulettes with construction engineer insignia. The unit had come from the direction of Bautzen and Kamenz with about 14 trucks and billeting equipment. The Volkspolizei unit which was previously scheduled to move into the Nachrichten Schule at Koenigsbrueck occupied quarters in Kamenz and Bautzen which had been vacated by the Soviet Army.³ The troops in the Nachrichten Schule were almost daily seen leaving for the training area at Koenigsbrueck and Graefenhain. They once left for a night practice. The troops generally left without vehicles and heavy weapons. [redacted] a 82-mm mortar.⁴
4. On 26 August, the Neues Lager was occupied by troops who were commanded by one General Mateyev (fnu). Units determined there included Unit [redacted] commanded by Colonel Mednikov (fnu); Unit [redacted] commanded by Colonel Shurba (fnu), [redacted] Unit [redacted] had been stationed in the summer camp at Bohra from May to 31 August and was equipped with 76-mm field guns.⁵ Between 7 and 26 August, [redacted] one General Pavlenko (fnu) was in command of all troops at the Koenigsbrueck summer camp.⁷ As during the preceding summer, the summer camp at Koenigsbrueck was occupied by units from Klotzsche, Riesa, Oschatz, Wurzen, Leisnig and Borna.⁸

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECRET

25X1

- 2 -

25X1

25X1

5. [redacted] fuel depot at the railroad crossing at the southwestern edge of the Schwepnitz railroad station.⁸

6. On 4 August, a summer camp consisting of low, temporary wooden buildings and earth bunkers and with a quartering capacity for about 10,000 men was located south of the Schwepnitz-Zeisholz road, where the road branched off toward Cosel. The camp extended about 500 meters along the Schwepnitz-Zeisholz road. The installation was vacant but guarded by a sentry who wore red-bordered black epaulets.⁸

7. On 20 August, 21 trucks loaded with baggage and billeting equipment and about 40 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport insignia left the Neues Lager toward Dresden.

- At about 5 p.m. on 20 August, 8 trucks, each towing a 37-mm AT gun [redacted] moved out of the Neues Lager toward Dresden.⁹ A train with 12 trucks and 12 x 37-mm AA guns stood at the Koenigsbrueck-West railroad station.

8. On 3 August, AAA of all types practiced firing at two towed sleeve targets in the area of Neues Lager. On 4 August, a train was seen with an undetermined number of flatcars with 6 x 85-mm AA guns and 7 trucks [redacted] and 3 boxcars, each carrying about 30 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, and 1 sealed boxcar.¹⁰ On 4 August, 12 x 85-mm AA guns, 17 trucks [redacted] and about 200 to 220 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and equipment were loaded in Koenigsbrueck for shipment toward Chemnitz.¹¹ On 5 August, a train with 6 trucks [redacted] and 6 x 85-mm AA guns passed through Koenigsbrueck from the direction of Schwepnitz and proceeded toward Zeithain.¹⁰ On 5 August, 21 trucks [redacted] and 11 x 85-mm AA guns were loaded in Koenigsbrueck for shipment toward Chemnitz.¹¹ A unit of about 250 troops with red-bordered black epaulets, 13 AA guns covered with tarpaulins and 24 trucks [redacted] was unloaded in Koenigsbrueck from a train which had come from the direction of Oschatz on 6 August. On 10 August, 24 chassis for field kitchens from the Karosseriewerk (car body plant) in Kasselburg were unloaded for the Sanawerk at the Koenigsbrueck railroad station. On 10 August, 25 T-34 tanks arrived in Koenigsbrueck from the direction of Klotzsche on three trains.¹² On 11 August, 2 trains carrying a total of 44 trucks [redacted] and 21 x 76.2-mm AA guns arrived in Koenigsbrueck from the direction of Weimar.¹³ On 15 and 17 August, 5 railroad tank cars with a capacity of about 200 and 429 hectoliter respectively arrived at Koenigsbrueck for Altes Lager.²

9. Between 31 August and 4 September, troops in Neues Lager engaged in firing practice with AAA, 57-mm and 85-mm AT guns and machine guns; they practiced entrenching, camouflage, entrenching while wearing gas masks, the rolling of tanks over personnel in fox holes and subsequent first aid. Firing from rocket launchers was heard on 3 September. On 4 September, about 2,000 troops supported by AT artillery and tanks made a practice attack and, from 8 to 10 p.m. practiced AAA firing with 25-mm twin-barreled AA guns with tracer ammunition. Motor vehicles observed in traffic to and from the camp [redacted]

10. On 1 August, 4 trains were loaded at Schwepnitz railroad station, namely 3 for shipment to Groeditz and 1 for shipment to Grimma. A total of 147 cars had to be made available for the shipments.¹⁰ On 1 August, field exercises extending as far as the area of Dresden were held in Lausnitzer Heide. [redacted] troops with tanks, AT artillery and AA were involved in the practices. Fifty trucks carrying billeting equipment passed through Koenigsbrueck toward Dresden

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

- 3 -

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

[REDACTED]

On 5 August, 19 x 85-mm AA guns and 21 motor vehicles [REDACTED] were loaded at the Koenigsbrueck railroad station, coming from Neues Lager. At about 11 a.m. on 16 August, a train with 15 tanks passed through Koenigsbrueck from the direction of Schwepnitz and proceeded toward Dresden. On 20 August, 12 x 37-mm AA guns from Neues Lager were loaded in Koenigsbrueck for shipment toward ~~Mechterstaedt~~. The train consisted of 9 boxcars and 31 flatcars with side-acks.⁴

11. On 11 August, T-34 tanks [REDACTED] moved out of the Nachrichten Schule for practice attacks in the wooded area of Roehrsdorf.⁴

12. On 29 August, the Altes Lager quartered 25 to 30 men cadre personnel who wore red-bordered black epaulets and 120 to 150 other soldiers assigned to work in the motor pool and who also wore red-bordered black epaulets. [REDACTED] numerous gasoline drums. During the nights between 25 and 27 August, trucks shipped gasoline drums to Neues Lager.²

13. On 30 August, the Nachrichten Schule was occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets including some with artillery insignia. Troops engaged in firing practice, sometimes while wearing gas masks, close-order drill in groups and cross-country driving with T-34 tanks. Motor vehicles observed in traffic from and to the installation [REDACTED]

14. Between 20 and 28 August, artillery firing with medium and heavy caliber pieces, machine gun firing, tank driving practice and combat exercises were observed in the area of Neues Lager almost daily.⁵

15. On 11 August, a train of 38 cars with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and 12 x 37-mm AA guns arrived in Koenigsbrueck from the direction of Senftenberg. [REDACTED]

16. For the first time since 17 June, Soviet soldiers in Koenigsbrueck were permitted to frequent German restaurants on 2 August. As in many instances soldiers and officers got drunk and indulged in excesses, the Soviet Kommandatura was required to interfere.

1. [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] 2 trains went from Koenigsbrueck to Altengrabow on 30 August. The loading of the artillery unit mentioned in the present report has presumably involved one of the trains. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the quartering area near Schmorkau is indicative of artillery units of the 11th Gds Tank Div. Artillery pieces of the caliber and type mentioned do not belong to the T/E of mechanized armies and the information is therefore not given credence.

2. [REDACTED] Comment. Altes Lager is the fuel depot of the First Gds Mecz Army.

3. [REDACTED] Comment. No engineer construction unit of the Soviet Army or Air Force is known to be stationed in Koenigsbrueck. It is possible that the unit was employed for the enlargement of Bautzen and Kamenz airfields for the VP Luft.

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

- 4 -

- 25X1 4. Comment. Units of the 11th Gds Tank Div assumed to have been
 25X1 stationed in the Nachrichten Schule in Koenigsbrueck include the 44th
 25X1 Gds Tank Regt (formerly in Kamenz), and the 270th Gds Mort Regt, about
 25X1 which no sufficient information is contained in the report. The regiment
 25X1 has however been repeatedly confirmed in the Nachrichten Schule. [redacted]
 [redacted]
- 25X1 5. Comment. The majority of the 4th Gds AAA Div of the First Gds Mecz
 25X1 Army are carried in Neues Lager. [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted] In 1949 and 1950, one Major
 25X1 General K.Z. Prokopovich was division commander. The officers mentioned in
 25X1 the report are unknown. [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 6. Comment. The summer camps in the area of Bohra, 4 km northwest of Neues
 25X1 Lager, are known.
- 25X1 7. Comment. General Pavlenko (fnu) is reported for the first time.
- 25X1 8. Comment. Most of the units from Klotzsche belong to the 11th Gds
 25X1 Tank Div. The locations of Wurzen, Leisnig, Borna and the information [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted] of paragraphs 5 and 6 confirm the 8th Gds Mecz Div, the summer camps
 25X1 of which were also situated in the area of Zeisholz-Otterschuetz-Schwepnitz-
 25X1 Gosel in 1952. Only a few vehicles of the 9th Tank Div from Riess and
 25X1 Oschatz were observed in Koenigsbrueck.
- 25X1 9. Comment. [redacted] 2 trains with trucks and
 25X1 artillery pieces were dispatched to Leipzig-Markranstaedt on 20 August. One
 25X1 of the shipments appears to have been covered in the present report. [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 10. Comment. These shipments are presumably connected with field exercises
 25X1 of units of the 1st Gds Mecz Div which, according to other indications, may
 25X1 have been conducted in the Koenigsbrueck-Elsterwerda-Oschatz area at the
 25X1 beginning of August. [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 11. Comment. [redacted] two shipments went from
 25X1 Koenigsbrueck to Chemnitz on 5 August. [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted] It is possible that, as
 25X1 was observed previously, AAA units of the army are employed in the uranium
 25X1 mining area.
- 25X1 12. Comment. [redacted] two shipments went from Dresden
 25X1 to Koenigsbrueck on 10 August.
- 25X1 13. Comment. [redacted] a shipment went from Weimar to
 25X1 Koenigsbrueck and vice versa on 10 August. It is doubted that the shipments
 25X1 mentioned in paragraphs 10 and 15 should have been identical with the
 25X1 aforementioned trains, as the data on caliber do not correspond. [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 14. Comment. It is assumed that light AAA units of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle
 25X1 Corps which had gone from ~~Leichterstaedt~~ to Koenigsbrueck [redacted] on
 25X1 11 July returned to the Kindel troop training grounds.

SECRET